World Conference for International Peace Through Religion

FORMERLY
[Universal Religious Peace Conference]

MISSION HOUSE LIBRARY NEW YORK CITY

Purpose
Plan
Organization
Progress

Publication No. 10

Administrative Office
70 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

PURPOSE

When the suggestion was first made that representatives of all the world's religions be brought together to discuss ways and means for promoting world peace, it was looked upon as an impossible dream.

Since 1924 the original proposal has taken definite shape, so that today it is more than a vision. The proposed conference bids fair to become one of the greatest events in the religious life of our generation.

A preliminary conference was held in Geneva in 1928 with 191 delegates brought together from the ends of the earth and representing various religions. It was agreed that an organization be created; that the purpose should be solely to devise ways and means to bring to bear upon the problems of peace and war the weight of the world's idealism as expressed in its religions.

The Executive Committee elected at Geneva met in Paris later in the year, and again in Frankfort, Germany, in August, 1929.

PLAN

It has been agreed that the conference be held in 1932 to which will be invited representatives of the world's living religions. Preparatory to this meeting four International Commissions have been established as follows:

Commission No. 1—What are the influences in the world that make for war?

a) Economic and financial
b) Social and industrial
c) Racial
d) Political
e) Propaganda

Commission No. 2—The spiritual resources of mankind with which these influences can be met.

a) Religious
b) Scientific
c) Cultural and Institutional
d) Educational
e) Philanthropic

Commission No. 3—To survey the efforts made by the various religious agencies and their adherents to further interracial and international understanding and peace.

Commission No. 4—To suggest methods by which these resources may be set in motion, coordinated and directed to bear upon the causes of war.

Men eminent in the field of economics, education, science, sociology, literature, art and religion have been appointed members of these Commissions. The Commissions will make their reports, which will be published, distributed and will become the basis of discussion when the conference meets.

A number of inspirational addresses will be given with opportunities for private conference, and the discussion of Committee reports. There will be, however, a minimum of formal speech-making and a maximum of discussion on the question *"What can religion contribute toward the establishment of World Peace and the Outlawry of War?"*

ORGANIZATION

At Frankfort six Presidents and thirteen Vice-Presidents were elected. A Business Committee was appointed with authority to make all the arrangements for the conference. A Secretariat was elected and offices established in New York, London, Paris, and Berlin. Besides this, authority has been given for the establishment of an office and the appointment of a Secretary for Japan, another for China, one for India, one for the Near and Middle East, and one for the Balkan States and Southeastern Europe.

A committee on publicity and one on education have been established. Through the organization, the purpose is to educate public opinion over as wide an area as possible, and secure the cooperation of men and women throughout the world in the endeavor to establish right international relations and lay the foundation for a permanent peace.

PROGRESS

The difficulty is to secure a practical interpretation of what religion really means. At the conference each religion will be asked to state its *teachings on peace;* what it is doing to inculcate these teachings among its followers; how far it can go in uniting in a common crusade to establish international relationships on a peace footing and to outlaw war. The conference will create a great world sentiment in behalf of the things for which vital religion stands. Its universality will make it appealing beyond anything that has yet been attempted.

No one will be encouraged to boast of the past or of the superiority of his particular religion, except as to its ability to serve humanity by ridding the earth of the age-long curse of war. There will be no attempt to compare religions nor to judge nor readjust, according to any schedule, the religious faith of any individual or people. Neither will there be discussed questions relating to doctrines, formulas and forms of faith, nor will any effort be made to expose or to espouse any political or social system nor give force to any criticism of such national and community arrangements as are now recognized and held sacred in the various parts of the world. *The sole purpose of the conference will be to consider how the forces of religion in all nations can be mobilized in a concerted action against*

Represented in the Membership of the World Conference are:

Roman Catholic Christians
Protestant Christians
Eastern Orthodox Christians
Buddhists
Confucianists
Hindus
Taoists
Shintoists
Moslems
Jews
Zoroastrians
Sikhs
Jains
Theosophists
Bahaists
Christian Scientists
The Sufi Movement
The Brahmo-Somaj
The Arya-Somaj
The Ramakrishna Movement
The New Thought Movement

The adherents of these faiths live scattered throughout the whole world.

The following is a representative, though only partial, list of a large number of persons who have given the Conference their hearty endorsement:

Rev. S. Parkes Cadman, D.D.
Sir Francis Younghusband
Hon. Charles E. Hughes
Hon. George W. Wickersham
Maj. Gen. Henry T. Allen
Rt. Hon. Austin Chamberlain
Senator Arthur Capper
R. Fulton Cutting
Rt. Rev. W. T. Manning, D.D.
Wickham Steed
Pres. Mary E. Woolley
Miss Grace Abbott
Miss Jane Addams
Pres. Cyrus Adler
William C. Allen
Mrs. Yorke Allen
Dr. M. Reddi Ammal
C. F. Andrews
Pres. James R. Angell
Prof. S. Angus
Dr. M. A. Ansari
W. J. L. Banham
Dr. Clifford W. Barnes
John Willis Baer
Miss Belle W. Baruch
George Gordon Battle
Anthony J. Beck
Arthur E. Bestor
Pres. Charles E. Beury
Pres. W. B. Bizzell
Pasteur Roger Bornand
Chaplr. Melvin A. Brannon
Rt. Rev. B. Brewster, D.D.
James W. Brown
Prof. Wm. Adams Brown
Rev. Julius Bursche
Robert J. Caldwell
Rabbi E. N. Calisch, Ph.D.
Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt
James H. Causey
Harry Chandler
Pastor P. Chiminelli, Ph.D.
Hon. Theodore Christianson
Dr. Percival Chubb
Dr. John Bates Clark
William F. Cochran
Pres. L. D. Coffman
Hon. Bird S. Coler
Dr. Ada L. Comstock
Pres. Donald J. Cowling
Hon. Josephus Daniels
Hon. Norman H. Davis
Rev. William Horace Day
Prof. Adolf Deissmann
Rt. Hon. Sir W. H. Dickinson
Judge Victor J. Dowling
Michael Francis Doyle
Sir Eric Drummond
Rev. W. H. Drummond, D.D.
Dr. Stephen P. Duggan
The Very Rev. W. Moore Ede
John E. Edgerton
Baron Ph. Van Pallandt V. Eerde
Shoghi Effendi
Prof. Dr. Albert Einstein
Rev. Samuel A. Eliot, D.D.
Hon. Abram I. Elkus
Pres. Livingston Farrand
Hon. Wallace R. Farrington
Bishop Joaquim Dos Santos Figueiredo
Prof. Irving Fisher
Harry Harkness Flagler
Mrs. J. Malcolm Forbes
A. H. Ford
Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick, D.D.
The Rt. Hon. G. E. Foster
Rev. James H. Franklin
Rabbi Leo M. Franklin
Rt. Rev. J. E. Freeman, D.D.
Dr. Karl Fries
Pastor D. M. Furnajieff
Mahatma Gandhi
The Most Rev. Archbishop Germanos
Dr. Frank J. Goodnow
Hon. Bibb Graves
Rt. Rev. Lewellyn Gwynn, D.D.
Rev. Francis J. Haas
Chief Rabbi Joseph H. Hertz
Pres. John Grier Hibben
Prof. William Bancroft Hill
Pres. Hamilton Holt
Prof. Manley O. Hudson
Frank A. Horne
Hon. Morton D. Hull
Dr. Robert E. Hume
Rev. J. Keating
Paul U. Kellogg
Pres. Henry C. King
Judge John C. Knox
Dr. P. W. Kuo
Dr. Henry Goddard Leach
Hon. I. Montefiore Levy
Pres. W. Mather Lewis
Walter J. Lippmann
Sir Henry Lunn
Judge Julian W. Mack
The Rt. Hon. F. S. Malan, LL.D., P.C.
Hon. Theodore Marburg
Dr. Alfred W. Martin
Prof. C. Matzold
Bishop F. J. McConnell
James G. McDonald
Bishop W. F. McDowell
Hon. David Hunter Miller
Pasteur Wilfred Monod
Dr. T. Albert Moore
Hon. Henry Morgenthau
Dr. Fridtjof Nansen
Dr. Herman Neander
Mrs. Henry Necarsulmer
Rev. Frank Mason North, D.D.
George W. Ochs Oakes
Adolph S. Ochs
Rt. Rev. G. A. Oldham, D.D.
Pres. Ellen F. Pendleton
Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker
Prof. William Lyon Phelps
Rt. Rev. F. R. Phelps, D.D.
Hon. Gifford Pinchot
Rev. Daniel A. Poling, D.D.
Channing Pollock
Rabbi David de Sola Poole
Dean Roscoe Pound
Hon. William A. Prendergast
Hon. William C. Redfield
Rev. Karl Reiland, D. D.
Fleming H. Revell
Prof. D. Julius Richter
Rev. Howard C. Robbins, D.D.
Rt. Hon. A. W. Roberts
Rt. Rev. Warren L. Rogers, D.D.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Dr. Leo S. Rowe
Senator Rabbi L. Rubenstein
Rev. John A. Ryan, D.D.
Dr. Hu Shih
Senior Samuel Schumacher
Dr. Hu Shih
Rev. C. da Silva, D.D.
Hon. Dr. W. A. de Silva
Rev. R. W. Sockman, D.D.
William E. Speers
Mrs. J. Stevenson
Rowe Stewart
Rt. Rev. E. M. Stires, D.D.
Hon. William E. Sweet
Arthur Sweetser
Herbert Bayard Swope
Hon. William H. Taft
Dr. Rabindranath Tagore
Com. Augustus O. Thomas
Prof. P. A. Wadia
Paul M. Warburg
Rev. D. Wark, D.D.
Thomas Raeburn White
Michael Williams
Mrs. Thomas G. Winter
Benjamin Winter
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise
Prof. Dr. F. Zilka

The Business Committee

Professor Shailer Mathews, Chairman
Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, Secretary

Monsieur Jules Jezequel
Mr. Marvin Lowenthal
Mr. Mountfort Mills
Monsieur Julien P. Monod
Dr. Frederick Siegmund-Schultze
Mr. Paul H. Steele
Mr. A. Yusuf Ali

war and that spirit and those things that make for war.

This is the hour for the accomplishment of this supreme task. Humanity awaits a message and a program which will bring it to pass. The religions of the world will rise to this great opportunity. Not only will it be worth doing, but it will be worth all that it will cost. When the nations are being bled white to pay for war, surely those who believe in the power of religion to prevent war should be ready and eager to see this high purpose made concrete on a world wide basis.

Full information will be gladly furnished. Write to Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, 70 Fifth Ave., New York, for all the conference publications.